

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) A golf practice device that helps a golfer develop an optimal golf swing, comprising:

a base adapted to overlie a ground surface;

a ~~first post~~ vertical extension mounted to said base in upstanding relation relative to said ground surface;

a ~~second post~~ horizontal extension secured to an upper end of said ~~first post~~ vertical extension in cantilevered relation thereto;

said ~~second post~~ horizontal extension being disposed in a substantially horizontal plane;

said ~~second post~~ horizontal extension being disposed at a substantially right angle to a line that extends from a target golf hole to a stationary golf ball supported by said ground surface;

said ~~second post~~ horizontal extension having a free end disposed in vertically spaced apart relation to said ground surface;

said free end adapted to be disposed substantially directly above said stationary golf ball;

a cradle interface secured to said free end;

a ~~third post member~~ support arm adapted to be releasably engaged by said cradle interface;

said ~~third post member~~ support arm, when releasably engaged by said cradle interface, being disposed substantially horizontally and being disposed substantially parallel to said line;

said ~~third post member~~ support arm being at least partially covered by a cushioning soft foam material adapted to absorb kinetic energy so that the kinetic energy of a golf club in motion is at least partially absorbed by said cushioning material if said cushioning material is struck by said golf club;

said releasable engagement of said ~~third post~~ support arm by said cradle interface enabling said ~~third post~~ support arm to separate from said cradle interface if said cushioning soft foam material is struck by said golf club;

said ~~third post support arm~~ having a first position where a ~~free end thereof is further from~~  
~~said target hole than is said golf ball~~ it is disposed in trailing relation to said cradle interface;

said ~~third post support arm~~ having a second position where a ~~free end thereof is closer to~~  
~~said target hole than is said golf ball~~ it is disposed in leading relation to said cradle interface;

said ~~third post support arm~~ being in said first position when said device is used by a  
student golfer having a first skill level; and

112, 1st ~~said third post support arm~~ being in said second position when said device is used by a an  
advanced golfer having a second skill level;

whereby golfers having differing skill levels may practice their golf swing by using said  
device. 112, 1st

15. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the ~~third post support arm~~ is  
formed of low density polyethylene foam.

16. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the cradle interface engages said  
~~third post support arm~~ by a press fit.

17. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the cradle interface engages the  
~~third post support arm~~ by a magnetic coupling.

18. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the cradle interface engages the  
~~third post support arm~~ by a hook and loop fastener, there being a first hook and loop fastener  
secured to said cradle interface and a second hook and loop fastener secured to said ~~third post~~  
support arm, said first and second hook and loop fasteners being complementary to one another.

19. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the base includes a pair of  
horizontal support members disposed in a V-shaped configuration, said horizontal support  
members extending from said first post vertical extension in a direction away from said  
stationary golf ball.

20. (previously presented) The device of claim 6, further comprising weights secured to  
respective free ends of said horizontal support members.

21. (currently amended) The device of claim 7, ~~wherein said horizontal support members,~~  
~~said first post and said second posts are hollow, and~~ further comprising an elastomeric assembly  
guide cord that extends through ~~respective hollow interiors of~~ said horizontal support members,  
said first post vertical extension and said ~~second post horizontal extension~~, beginning at said  
respective free ends of said horizontal support members and terminating at the free end of said

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~~second post~~ horizontal extension, said elastomeric assembly guide cord maintaining said horizontal supports members in taut relation to said ~~first post~~ vertical extension and maintaining said ~~first post~~ vertical extension in taut relation to said ~~second post~~ horizontal extension.